

PSY 341K, Neuroscience of Motivation & Reward, Spring 2012

(Unique number: 43265)

Juan M. Dominguez

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM, or by appt.

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Teaching assistant:

- Ryan Will, e-mail: willrg@gmail.com, office hours will be announced on the first day of class.

Readings:

- **Several assigned readings (e.g. assigned articles, online assignments, chapters from books in library reserve, etc).** These will be assigned throughout the semester.

NOTE: You will have access to grades, assigned articles, and additional information via the Blackboard website. Please make certain that your Blackboard account is active and that you are familiar with navigating in it.

Class meetings: *Tues & Thu, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, room SEA 2.108*

Topics (Presented in approximate order of discussion. We may or may not cover all topics).

1. Introduction
2. History and overview
3. The evolution of motivation and emotion
4. Genetics, learning, and development
5. General physiological perspective
6. Thirst, hunger, and elimination

7. Pain, fear, and comfort

8. Reproduction

9. Exam I

10. Arousal and stress

11. Anger, hate, and aggression

12. Happiness, sadness, and coping strategies

13. Love and attachment

14. Motivation to learn

15. Conflicts among motives

16. Self, family, and community

17. Possible additional Topics

18. Exam II

EXAM DATES: *Dates are 3/8 for exam I and 5/3 for exam II. If these dates change, I will make an in class announcement.*

COURSE OBJECTIVE: When finished with this course, you will have a greater understanding of how the brain and hormones modulate motivated behaviors and associated disorders. Additionally, you will be familiar with recent advancements in the field pertaining to neuroendocrine mechanisms of motivation.

FORMAT: A lecture, presentation, and discussion format will be employed to explore these topics. Attendance to all classes is expected.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your performance on two exams, several review papers, a research paper, oral presentations, and unannounced quizzes will determine your grade. Unless there is an official documented emergency, no make up exams, assignments, or quizzes will be administered.

1. Exams (comprise 40% of final grade):

Two multiple choice/short answer exams will be administered during the semester. Exam grades will comprise 40% of your final grade. All exams will be administered in class. No make-up exams will be administered, unless there is a documented emergency. You are required to bring a picture ID to show when submitting an exam. Exam dates are listed above.

2. Presentations (comprise 5% of final grade):

In-class presentations on a topic related to neuro-endocrine regulation of motivated behaviors or associated disorders. Presentation topics and dates will be assigned during the first week of class.

3. Unannounced quizzes (comprise 5% of final grade):

Unannounced quizzes will be administered in class. Quizzes will be brief (generally 5 to 10 min), but may be given anytime during class. No make-up quizzes or assignments will be administered.

4. Article summaries (comprise 20% of final grade):

Students will be required to submit weekly article summaries dealing with a previously assigned research article.

5. Research papers (comprise 30% of final grade):

A 20-page research paper will be required by the end of the semester. The topic will be of the student's choosing, but will be restricted to issues pertaining to brain and/or endocrine regulation of naturally rewarding/motivating behaviors (e.g. eating, reproduction, affiliation) or disorders of motivation (e.g. addiction, depression). Due date will be discussed during the first week of class.

Feel free to visit during office hrs or make an appt. if you need additional help.

Grading policy:

-No make-up exams and no extra credit assignments

-Exam I 20 points

-Exam II 20 points

-In-class presentations..... 5 points

-Quizzes 5 points

-Article summaries 20 points

-Research paper..... 30 points

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-**Total** 100 points

Total points earned will determine your final grade, using the following points distribution:

93-100 = A

90-92 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

< 60 = F

Note: Though not foreseeable, any changes or deviations from this syllabus (e.g. order in which topics are covered, exam dates, etc.) will be announced in class.

The use of laptop computers or any other electronic device (e.g. iPad) is permitted in class but only for class-related purposes (primarily taking notes), unless otherwise stated in class. Effectively this means that students are not allowed to browse the web, use Facebook, any other social network, or chat online, while in class. Should this rule be violated, I then reserve the right to prohibit the use of any electronic device in the classroom by all students. Thank you for respecting your classmates while following this rule.

Academic integrity:Students are expected to uphold the Student Standard of Conduct published in the University of Texas website (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php), section 11-801. Generally, do not plagiarize, do not collaborate with colleagues when doing work that should be your own, do not cheat on exams, and do not submit work as your own that was obtained or purchased from someone else.

Disability services:If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, wide range of services are available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request

appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.